

Paeonia

芍药属 - *Paeonia*, Peony (*Paeoniaceae*)

芍药 - *lactiflora* (*P. albiflora*) (*P. sinensis*)

Origin: China where it seems to have been cultivated since the 5th century B.C. It came to Europe in 1820. Herbaceous perennial with lanceolate leaves, 7-10cm long and flowers borne on long stems appearing in April-May, later than all other types of Peony, and lasting much longer. There are many varieties with different colours and shapes. Grows well in all types of soil, preferring soil that is not too light and alkaline. Grows well in pots as long as the tubers are not removed for some years.



"Bowl of Beauty"

Reddish-lilac flowers, with pale yellow centre.

"Candida"

Large, fragrant, white flowers.



Paeonia



"Sarah Bernhard"

Double flowers, silvery-pink edged in white, fragrant.

牡丹 - *suffruticosa* (*P. arborea*), Tree-peony

Origin: China. Deciduous, rounded shrub made up of few woody upright, sturdy stems. Bipinnate leaves made up of oval leaflets, 5-10cm long, with 3-5 pale green lobes. Flowers in April-May. There are many varieties with different shape, size and colour flower. Loves calcareous soil, permeable, deep and cool. The best flowering is obtained in climates where the winters are cold and summers hot. Use: they form superb flowering groups on lawns.

